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REMARKS

The present request is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated October 16, 2006, which set a three-month period for response, making a response due by January 16, 2007, and with the initial two-month period for response expiring on December 16, 2006.

Claims 13-18 and 20-22 are pending in this application.

In the final Office Action, claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 1,539,068 to Brockett in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,990,488A to Schafer. Claims 17-18 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brockett and Schafer as applied in the above rejection, and further in view of Gerlach.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 19 and 22, if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this Request for Reconsideration, independent claim 13 has been amended to add the features of allowed claim 19, and claim 19 was canceled. Claim 13 now stands in condition for allowance, as do its dependent claims 14-18 and 20-22.

In light of the foregoing amendment, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.